

July 28, 2009

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 63.

This bill eliminates the Integrated Waste Management Board (Board) and transfers its regulatory and programmatic functions to the new Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery at the Natural Resources Agency.

I proposed legislation earlier this year that would have distributed the Board's responsibilities between the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Natural Resources Agency. The proposal approved by the Legislature instead shifts all of the Board's functions to the Natural Resources Agency. While the crucial goal of eliminating the Board has been achieved, it is also of the utmost importance to ensure that the new Department most effectively serves its constituencies. To that end, I am directing my staff to work with the Legislature to make any changes to SB 63 necessary to ensure the measure best addresses my Administration's environmental protection goals and that programmatic functions are housed in the most appropriate agency.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger